

FRENCH AND BRITISH FORCES IN BELGIUM TAKE THE OFFENSIVE; RUSSIANS WIN A BIG VICTORY OVER GERMANS IN EAST PRUSSIA JAPAN AT WAR WITH GERMANY; MOVES TO ATTACK KIAO-CHOW

RUSSIANS WIN SIX DAY BATTLE; GERMAN ARMY OF 100,000 BEATEN

Czar's Forces Capture Important Towns and Much War Material in East Prussia—Way to Koenigsberg Open.

TWO-THIRDS OF THE KAISER'S TROOPS LOST; IN FULL RETREAT

Great Thirty Mile Fight Around Gumbinnen Has Given Victors Control of Prussia Toward Vistula, Is Official Claim.

By B. W. NORREGAARD,
Special correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily Mail."
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
ST. PETERSBURG, August 23.
The first great battle in the East Prussian theatre of operations has been fought and won by the Russians, who achieved a complete victory after six days of desperate fighting along a battle front of nearly thirty miles on both sides of the main railway running from Eydtkuhnen westward.

The Russians occupied Soldau, from which place they command the railway line from Danzig and Soldau westward to Willenberg, which is also in Russian hands.

Neidenburg, another town on the line of the Russian advance, was set on fire by the retreating garrison. The inhabitants fled.

The Germans in this region are retreating. It is stated that the Russians near Soldau and Neidenburg are threatening the German lines of communication. They have also captured Johannsburg and Ortelburg.

In Full Retreat.
The Germans are in full retreat and are crossing the Angerapp River.

It is claimed that the battle at Gumbinnen has given the Russians control of that part of Prussia toward the Vistula.

The fighting began on Monday. The Russians attacked the German first division, which had delivered several unsuccessful attacks on Eydtkuhnen.

The forces engaged on both sides gradually increased. The Germans finally had three army corps engaged. One corps had been hurriedly called back from Lyck.

There was fierce fighting at Gumbinnen on Thursday, when the Germans attempted to turn the Russian right. Although the attack at this point was conducted with the utmost vigor the attempt was frustrated by the bravery and stubbornness of the Russian troops on this wing.

The Russians took the opportunity of the concentration of the Germans to the northward to make a direct and vigorous assault by their centre, with which they captured many guns.

On Friday the Russian left wing pressed onward. Toward evening the Russians drove the Germans out of their positions. The Germans then asked for an armistice to carry away their wounded. This was refused.

Great Battle Decided.
Yesterday (Saturday) the battle was decided. The Germans hastily retreated and were pursued by the Russians. The losses of the Germans were very heavy. The Russians captured the towns of Arys and Goldap.

Reports that the Russians have also occupied Insterburg seem to be official. This means that Tilsit is cut off from communication with other parts of Prussia.

In the fighting from Monday to Friday night eight German regiments of the field army and six Landwehr regiments with a total of 70,000 men and 200 guns took part. Later in the fighting the reinforcements brought the number of German engaged up to over 100,000 men.

The German forces available in East Prussia, besides the independent cavalry divisions, are five corps of the field army numbering 210,000 men; 540 field guns, 180 howitzers and a considerable number of siege guns.

The army corps are the First, which is at Koenigsberg; the Fifth at Posen, the Sixth at Breslau, the Seventeenth at Danzig and the Twentieth at Allenstein.

500,000 Men; 1,100 Guns.
Besides these are ten Landwehr divisions and twenty Landwehr brigades with a total of 320,000 men with 860 guns. The total German forces in the East, not counting the Landwehr, is about 500,000 men with 1,100 field guns and howitzers and a large number of siege guns.

The country into which the Russians will advance is full of large and small

lakes, rivers, canals and marshes. These natural advantages the Germans have strengthened by a large number of fortifications, including the fortresses at Koenigsberg, Allenstein, Danzig and Thorn. Besides this the whole country is strewn with fortifications and permanent field works of every description. They are largely armed with heavy guns.

All of these military measures prove to be of immense strategic importance in East Prussia.

The capture of Insterburg is officially confirmed. This straightens out the front of Russia's armies in the northwest.

I learn from an authoritative source that the German forces engaged lost two-thirds of their effectives—a passage has been eliminated by the censor at this point in the story.

Unless the Germans bring up strong reinforcements, which is doubtful owing to the seizure of important railway and road communications by the Russians the latter may now proceed to the investment of Koenigsberg.

There has been a flight of the inhabitants from Willenberg, over 100 miles distant. The fighting is variously interpreted here. Some military writers attribute it a Russian advance on the Mazur lakes. Others believe that it is directly due to another Russian movement from Poland directed at Allenstein, which is practically substantiated. This threatens serious consequences to the German forces in northeast Prussia.

News from the Austrian frontier is so far auspicious. According to an official report the Russian army has occupied Rava Russka, a town on the Austrian border and an important stage on the Russian march toward Lemberg.

The critic of the *Notos Vremya* points out that the Russian army has advanced sixteen miles in two days on the march to Gumbinnen, which might have been regarded as a remarkable achievement even in times of peace.

GERMAN GUNS CAPTURED.
By B. W. NORREGAARD,
Special correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily Mail."
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
ST. PETERSBURG, August 22 (delayed).

Exactly twenty-one days after the beginning of mobilization the Russians invaded Germany and Austria-Hungary. Official bulletins in a terse, eloquent passage, which has been censored, say:

"On Thursday the fighting extended along a front of thirty miles. The First and probably the Third German army corps were presented, fourteen regiments of which, with six field units and numerous heavy guns, participated in the fighting."

I hear that twenty-four guns were captured by the Russians. They also captured a locomotive and other rolling stock, fodder, spirits, petrol and \$10,000 in money. The Germans are withdrawing from the frontier and German inhabitants are forsaking their homes and fleeing northward.

The fighting is going on in a difficult country which is strewn with pits and barbed wire entanglements. Every station and almost every house has a loophole from which shots can be fired.

Trustworthy information here is to the effect that the Germans have nine army corps on the frontier, with three formations on the eastern front. The Austrians have at least fourteen army corps on the Russian frontier, besides reserve formations.

Russians in Galicia.
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
ST. PETERSBURG, August 23.
An official communique issued to-night says:

"Nine Russian squadrons on August 22 defeated near the station at Pluhov an Austrian force of double their strength. We captured two mounted batteries and 160 prisoners."

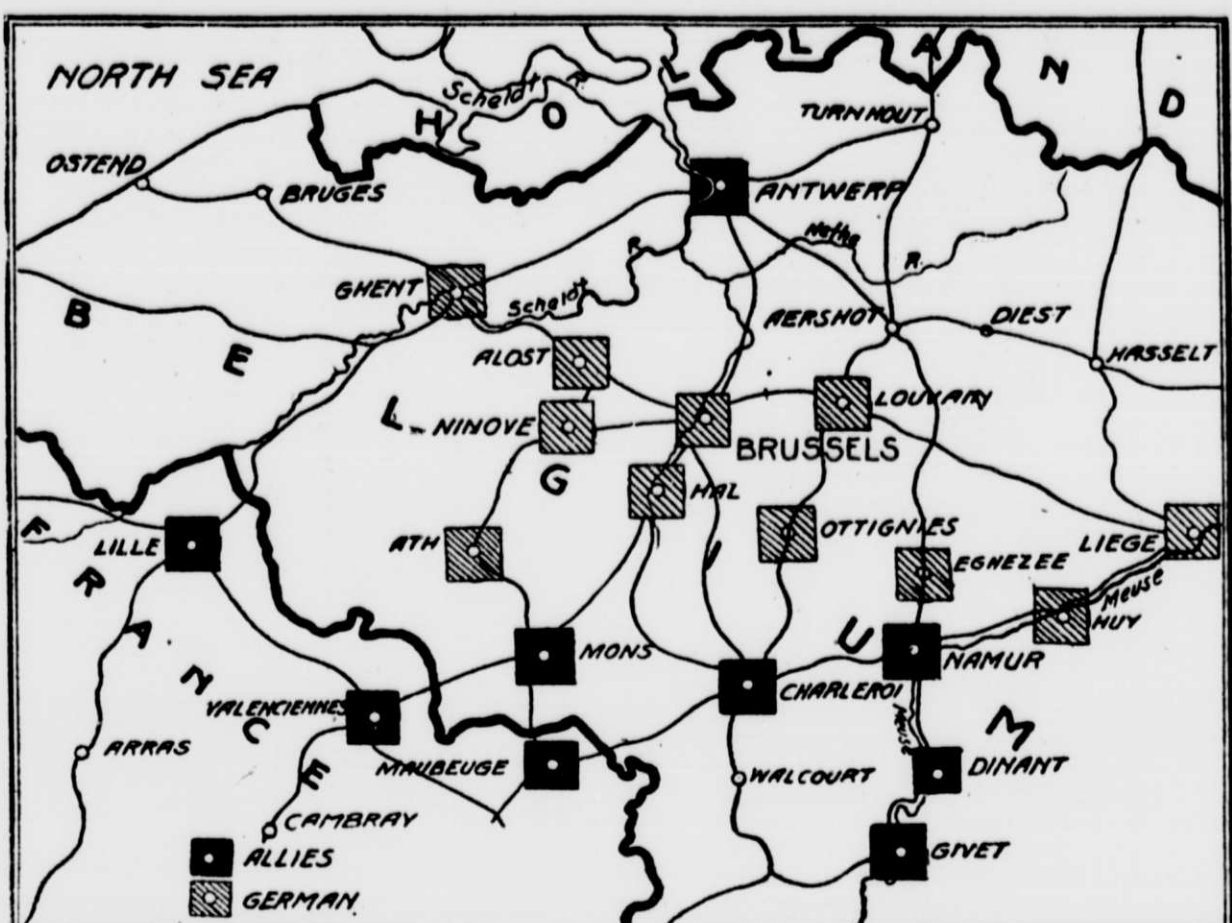
"The Austrian force which attacked

Chas. E. Matthews, the Desk Man, now 21
E. 25th St. Complete Office Quilted, now 21

Continued on Fourth Page.

WHY GERMANY WENT TO WAR.
Full text of the Berlin Foreign Office's "White Paper," setting forth Germany's case, in today's New York Times.—Adv.

Continued on Fourth Page.



A great battle has been in progress on Belgian soil for the last twenty-four hours. The line extends from Mons to the Luxembourg frontier. All along this entire front the French have taken the defensive. They are supported by the British army. The field of battle, especially upon the French right, is wooded and difficult.

Namur holds out against a severe German bombardment. The entire Belgian force has retired to Antwerp. All the forts at Liege continue to hold out, with the exception of the Chateaufontaine fort, which was blown up by its commandant when it was almost reduced by the German siege guns and about to fall into the hands of the enemy.

JAPAN WARS ON GERMANY; ARMY MOVES

Military and Naval Forces Are Ordered Against Kiao-chow.

KAISER SENDS NO REPLY TO DEMAND

Mikado Expects to Take Three Months in Reducing Tsing-tao.

Germany Refuses to Accede to the Demand

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 23.—An official despatch from Berlin says the German Government replied to the Japanese ultimatum verbally by telling the Japanese Charge d'Affaires that Germany had nothing to say to Japan's demands and would therefore be obliged to recall her Ambassador from Tokyo.

The Japanese Charge d'Affaires was handed his passports.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

TOKYO, August 23.
Japan formally declared war on Germany at 6 o'clock this evening, Tokyo time.

Germany had failed to reply to the Japanese ultimatum that she withdraw from Kiao-chow and the Far East.

Immediately after the issuing of the "imperial rescript" the Japanese military and naval forces were ordered to move against Kiao-chow.

Count von Rex, the German Ambassador to Japan, received his passports today and will sail for America, either on the Minnesota Thursday or on the Manchuria Saturday. Germany's interests in Japan will be looked after by the American Ambassador.

The Japanese have no illusions about the strength of the German fortified port of Tsing-tao. The garrison is fully provisioned for an eight months siege and Chinese coolies have been working day and night for some time strengthening the already strong fortifications. It is estimated in Japanese official circles that it will take three months to reduce the port.

Official news of the situation of the Japanese fleet and transports is lacking, but because of the preparations which have been in progress since Japan sent her ultimatum to the Kaiser's Government last Sunday, it is believed that everything was ready for the attack on Kiao-chow when the time limit

BLOWS UP FORT AND DIES RATHER THAN SURRENDER

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, August 23.
The Ministry of War issued the following communique at 11 P. M.:

"The Chateaufontaine fort at Liege was the scene of an act of heroism which brilliantly affirms once more the valor of the Belgian army."

"Major Nameche commanded the fort which controls the railway from Aix-la-Chapelle to Liege via the Verviers and Chateaufontaine tunnel. The fort was bombarded continuously and very violently by the Germans. When it was only a heap of debris and the commander judged that resistance was impossible he blockaded the tunnel by producing collisions between several locomotives which had been sent into it. Then he set fire to the fuses of mines in the tunnel."

"His task thus done, Major Nameche did not wish to see the German flag float over the ruins of his fort. He therefore exploded all the remaining powder and blew up everything, including himself. Such an act of heroism is beyond all comment."

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

JAPAN.—The Japanese Government has formally declared war on Germany. Immediately after the issuing of the imperial rescript Japanese military and naval forces were ordered to move against Kiao-chow.

Count von Rex, the German Ambassador to Japan, has received his passports and will sail for America either on Thursday or Saturday. German interests in Japan will be looked after by the American Ambassador.

The Japanese are said to have no illusions about the strength of the German fortified port of Tsing-tao, and it is estimated in Japanese official circles that it will take three months to reduce the fort.

Reports have been received that Germany is endeavoring to transfer the railroad whose terminus is in Kiao-chow to American interests. It is believed, however, that the United States will not take over this or any other German interest.

BELGIUM.—The big engagement in Belgium is along a great line extending from Mons to the Luxembourg frontier. The French have everywhere taken the offensive and their action is going on regularly in unison with action by the English army. In the official communique from Paris, it is said that in this, the first effective movement of the French, they have before them practically the entire German army in active and reserve formations. The field of operations on the French right is wooded and difficult, and it is believed that the battle will last several days.

At Namur the Germans are making a great effort against the forts which are resisting energetically. The Belgian army is entirely concentrated within the Antwerp fortifications.

FRANCE.—The Germans have occupied Luneville in France, which is ten miles from the border and about fifteen miles southeast of Nancy. In the Vosges, according to an official communique, the situation has influenced the French to move back from the Donon and the Saales pass. The French now occupy a fortified line beginning outside of the belt of forts around Nancy.

An official communique says that the German Zeppelin Z 5 has been destroyed by French shells between Celles and Badonviller, in Meurthe-et-Moselle.

ITALY.—Italy is rapidly mobilizing and it is probable that the army will be completely mobilized by August 27. Austria is declared to be exerting all possible pressure to force Italy to enter the war on the side of the Triple Alliance, but France and Russia, to counteract the Austrian solicitations, have sent Theophile Delcasse, French Minister of War, and Count Witte, former Russian Premier, to Rome.

AUSTRIA.—A despatch from Vienna announces that operations against the Servians on the Drina have been abandoned and that the Austrian troops will be withdrawn. This has caused considerable surprise, although it was known that the situation in Bosnia had been growing gradually worse. Austria has discontinued sending troops into that territory, fearing that she might have difficulty in getting them out when they were needed for other operations. Austria is uniting with Germany to repel the Russian invasion along the eastern frontiers of the two countries.

SERBIA.—The Serbian army, according to official announcements from Nish, has gained a great victory at Mount Fear and the River Zardar. On the northern front there is only a feeble bombardment of Belgrade. The Serbian artillery has destroyed three Austrian steamships.

his eighty-fourth birthday only six days ago. His health was reported poor at that time owing to the war.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR IS REPORTED TO BE DYING

Aged Monarch's Demise Said to Be Likely to Occur at Any Moment.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

ROME, Aug. 23.—It is reported that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria is dying. His end may come at any moment.

Emperor Francis Joseph celebrated

FRENCH AND BRITISH IN BATTLE WITH THE WHOLE GERMAN ARMY

Allied Troops Assume Offensive Over 100 Mile Front From Mons to the Luxemburg Frontier.

ALL NAMUR FORTS ENGAGED IN TERRIFIC ARTILLERY DUEL

Liege Forts Still Hold Out and the Belgian Army Is Safe Within the Fortified Lines of Antwerp.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
PARIS, August 23, 11 P. M.

The War Office issued the following announcement to-night:

"A great battle is now in progress along a vast line extending from Mons to the frontier of Luxemburg (about 100 miles). Our troops, in conjunction with the British, have assumed everywhere the offensive."

"We are faced by almost the whole German army, both active and reserve. The ground, especially on our right, is thickly wooded and difficult. The battle is likely to last several days."

"The enormous extent of the front and the great number of forces involved make it impossible to follow step by step the movements of each of our armies."

"We must await the result of the first phase of the combat before we can form any conclusion as to the situation. Otherwise we should be giving to the press divergent and contradictory news, since such a battle is naturally made up of actions and reactions which follow and connect in a continuous manner."

"In the Vosges the general situation determined us to withdraw our troops from Donon and the Saales pass. Those points were no longer of any importance, since we occupied the fortified line beginning at Grand Couronne de Nancy."

"Lunville is occupied by the Germans, and at Namur the Germans are making great efforts against the forts, which resist energetically."

GERMAN MOVE A FEINT.
LONDON, August 23.

The great battle between the Germans and the allies in Belgium has now been in progress for twenty-four hours, according to advices received here. At the conclusion of the first day of fighting, during which the Germans had been the aggressors, the French, according to the reports, took the offensive in the vicinity of Charleroi in an attempt to turn the enemy's left. No indication as to the result of this movement has yet been received here.

The British Government gave orders to-day for the establishment of auxiliary hospitals for the wounded of the allies.

It is not expected that this great battle, of greater magnitude than any of the famous battles of history, will reach a decisive stage for some days.

A Rotterdam despatch published in a *Times* extra to-day quotes Kobendaal despatches, dated Saturday afternoon, saying that soon after leaving Brussels and making a feint toward Ghent the Germans suddenly turned toward the southwest. According to the correspondent the German strategists regard this move, apparently directed against Lille, together with the march on Valenciennes, as a surprise for the allies and believe that it will oblige the latter to change their front.

Reports of the twenty hours of

fighting at Charleroi, in which the French have taken the offensive, say that the French troops have succeeded in endangering the German line of communications and are now menacing the German position on the Meuse.

AIM AT VALENCIENNES.
Germans Pour Westward From Brussels in Steady Stream.

By J. M. JEFFRIES,
Special correspondent of The Sun and the London "Daily Mail."
Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
OSTEND, August 24.

Refugees from Brussels tell me that the Germans have been pouring in a ceaseless stream from the southward and westward. The columns are descending by the great roads on either side of Enghien and are apparently aiming at Valenciennes. They are moving with great speed. Further to the northwest, on the line between Ghent and Dixmude, advance parties have appeared and have done damage at Thiel and Lichtervelde.

The disposition here is to see in this movement an encirclement of Bruges and Ostend. Others suggest that it means a dash on Roubaix.

The refugees say that the conduct of the Germans in Brussels remains good. German soldiers walk about alone smoking cigars, of which they had their helmets full when they entered the city. The first corps which entered the city is not stationed there now. The German staff is quartered at the Ministry of War. Sentries are posted in the Chaussee de Louvain and the Rue de la Loi. The mass of soldiers talk with the civil population and tell them that they are in no danger if they conduct themselves in a peaceable manner.

M. Max, the Burgomaster, even informed the public that it was not necessary to remove the Belgian flags from their houses and a great number of these emblems have reappeared.

German infantry, cavalry and artillery went through Hekeheighem, near Aasch, on the Alost line, on Saturday between 7 A. M. and noon. They were preceded by cyclists who tore up the telegraph and telephone lines. Local railroad lines were also torn up. Engineers followed with bridge building apparatus.

GERMAN GUNS SILENCED.
Namur Forts Demolish Battery in an Hour.

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.
PARIS, August 23.

A despatch from Charleroi to the *Temps* says:

FRENCH TROOPS IN LORRAINE ARE FORCED TO RETREAT

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun.

PARIS, Aug. 23.—The *Temps* prints to-night the following summary of the war situation:

"Our troops in Lorraine, which were violently attacked by far more numerous forces, have fallen back, leaving prisoners and some guns in the enemy's hands. We unhesitatingly affirm that there is nothing serious, nothing disturbing in any form, in this movement."

"The chief German forces are in Belgium. If we are victorious in the great battle which has already commenced there the Germans, who will have penetrated Lorraine, will be rapidly withdrawn. Even an unfavorable result of

the first battle need not discourage us. "Germany and Austria are completely encircled and must succumb. Any victories they might win to-day would have no effect to-morrow."

A despatch from London quotes a German official statement as saying that troops under the command of the Crown Prince of Bavaria, fighting between Metz and the Vosges, took 10,000 French prisoners and fifty guns. It adds that the French troops opposing the Germans comprised eight army corps.

In answer to this statement the French War Office issued the following communique to-day:

"An official German telegram has announced that we suffered a severe